

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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P 120803Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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FOR: SECSTATE EA/PHL ONLY

USIA/IEA

CINCPAC - USIA ADVISOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - MAY 6 - 12, 1977

I. PSYCHOLOGICAL

A. SUPPORT FOR U.S. AID TO VN - THE TIMES JOURNAL AND BULLETING TODAY IN LENGTHY EDITORIALS PRAISED THE UNITED STATES FOR PROGRESS IN TALKS WITH VIETNAM AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT CLOSER US-VN RELATIONS WOULD ENHANCE THE STABILITY OF THE REGION. BOTH PAPERS ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT PAY REPARATIONS, BUT OPINED THAT GIVEN AMERICA'S "ALTRUISM" AND "REPUTATION FOR BEING MAGNANIMOUS" THE VIETNAMESE CAN BE HOPEFUL ABOUT RECEIVING SUBSTANTIAL RECONSTRUCTION AID.

TIMES JOURNAL COLUMNIST ERNESTO GRANADA OBJECTED TO THAT POSSIBILITY AS HE NOTED THAT "AMERICA'S OLD FRIENDS IN ASIA, INCLUDING THE PHILIPPINES, SUFFER FROM U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION, "WHILE THE US

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AND THE ASIAN SOCIALIST STATES NOW PROMISE TO BE THE BEST OF FRIENDS." AND EXPRESS COLUMNIST TEODORO VALENCIA DOUBTED THE U.S. WOULD HELP VIETNAM, SAYING, "THAT'S THE U.S. FOR YOU - A GENEROUS VICTOR, BUT A POOR LOSER."

B. VALENCIA BACK - AFTER A FORTNIGHT OF DULL CANNED

COLUMNS, VALENCIA IS BACK FROM A VISIT TO JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES RESTED AND REFRESHED AND MORE VITRIOLIC THAN EVER. HIS COLUMNS HAVE BEEN FILLED WITH CONDEMNATIONS OF AMERICAN CITIES AS HOTBEDS OF CRIME AND FILTH, OF THE "STEAK COMMANDOS" (FILIPINO DISSIDENTS LIVING IN THE U.S.) AND OF THE "BIASED" AMERICAN PRESS.

C. "SUMMIT OF THE RICH" - SO IT WAS CALLED BY THE EVENING POST, WHICH TOGETHER WITH THE TIMES JOURNAL OFFERED EDITORIALS ON THE LONDON SUMMIT, DESPITE ITS TITLE, THE POST TOOK A POSITIVE VIEW OF THE SUMMIT, SAYING, "MORE DIRECTLY, THE DEVELOPING NATIONS WILL BENEFIT FROM INCREASED ASSISTANCE FROM THE SEVEN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, WHICH IS ONLY ONE OF THE REAL RESOURCES THE GROUP PLEDGED TO TRANSFER TO THE POOR NATIONS...JUDGING FROM THE ATTITUDES REVEALED IN THE LONDON MEETING, THE PARIS (NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE) TALKS MAY HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF REACHING COMMON GROUND."

THE TIMES JOURNAL CONCENTRATED ITS EDITORIAL ON PRES. CARTER'S PERFORMANCE, CONCLUDING THAT "IN HIS FIRST VENTURE INTO SUMMIT DIPLOMACY, SIGNS POINT TO SUCCESS...HE MAY NOT WISH TO COMPLETELY WASH AWAY THE RED CLAY OF GEORGIA FROM HIS BROGANS, BUT SHOWING THEM THAT HE CAN ALSO FILL A WORLD LEADER'S SHOES IS NOT SUCH A BAD THING EITHER." THE TIMES JOURNAL FAULTED CARTER ON HUMAN RIGHTS: "IT IS HIS OBSESSION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS THAT HE WOULD HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY SELLING TO HIS ALLIES, WHO DO NOT SHARE HIS BAPTIST RECTITUDE AND WHO

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BELIEVE RIGHTLY THAT HIS POSITION IN THIS RESPECT IS "ABRUPT AND LACKING IN SENSIBILITY" AND, IN ANY CASE, SMACKS TOO MUCH OF AN AMERICAN AGAIN TRYING TO IMPOSE UPON THE REST OF THE WORLD HER LIMITED CONCEPT OF FREEDOM...THIS SUGGESTION MUST ECHO THE FEELINGS OF MANY THIRD WORLD LEADERS, THE PHILIPPINES INCLUDED, THAT THEIR STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT CALLS FOR LIMITATIONS ON INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE RIGHTS WITHIN ACCEPTABLE BOUNDARIES, FOR THEIR ABUSE MIGHT IMPAIR THE PROGRESS THEY ARE WORKING HARD TO MAINTAIN AGAINST ODDS THAT AMERICANS MIGHT FIND HARD TO COMPREHEND."

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D. COMMUNISTS DON'T GIVE HANDOUTS -- BULLETIN
TODAY COLUMNIST APOLONIO BATALLA DREW UPON THE LONDON
SUMMIT'S CALL UPON THE COMMUNIST BLOC TO GIVE MORE
ECONOMIC AID TO WRITE A LENGTHY COLUMN ON THE STINGINESS
OF THE COMMUNISTS. AFTER SHOWING HOW MUCH THE WESTERN
NATIONS HAVE GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPING LANDS AND HOW
LITTLE THE COMMUNISTS HAVE HELPED, BATALLA CONCLUDED:
"IF ONLY BECAUSE OF THE RELATIVE MAGNITUDES OF THE
ASSISTANCE RECEIVED, VERY FEW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
HAVE GONE INTO COMMUNIST AMBIT."

E. STAY PUT IN SOKOR - FRANCISCO DE LEON, TIMES JOURNAL,
DEVOTED A LENGTHY COLUMN TO THE OBJECTIONS OF GENERAL
JOHN VESSEY, GENERAL BERNARD ROGERS AND OTHERS THAT THE
U.S. SHOULD NOT WITHDRAW FROM SOUTH KOREA. DE LEON
APPARENTLY SHARES THEIR VIEWS, AS HE PRESENTS THEM
WITHOUT REBUTTAL, AND CLOSES BY SAYING THAT ALTHOUGH
THESE VIEWS MAY BE EMBARRASSING TO PRESIDENT CARTER,
HE "WILL FIND THEM INSTRUCTIVE IN AVOIDING THE RISKS
OF A NEW WAR IN KOREA..."

F. WATCHING JOHN HAY -- THE BULLETIN TODAY
BAGUIO CORRESPONDENT NOTED SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS IN
FACILITIES UNDERWAY AT CAMP JOHN HAY AND SPECULATED THAT
THEY MAY BE SIGNS THAT HAY "MAY BE AMONG THE FIRST
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MILITARY BASES TO PHASE OUT."

G. INSTANT PENSIONERS - DAILY EXPRESS BOARD CHAIRMAN
D. H. SORIANO, VISITING THE U.S. SUBMITTED
A LENGTHY ITEM TO THE PAPER PRESENTING THE AMERICAN
SIDE OF THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT STORY. HE FOCUSED
ON FILIPINO IMMIGRANTS WHO IMMEDIATELY JOIN THE

WELFARE ROLES IN CALIFORNIA AND QUOTES ONE FILIPINO SAYING: "THE NEWCOMERS WHO HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE LAW HAVE TREMENDOUSLY HURT THE PRIDE OF THE FILIPINOS."

II. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES:

LAW OF THE SEA ON TV - IMV'S "TOWARD A NEW LAW OF THE SEA" IS RUNNING IN FIVE INSTALLMENTS THIS WEEK AS AN INNOVATIVE SERIAL NEWSFEATURE ON MANILA'S MOST POPULAR EVENING NEWSCAST. USING ITS VTR EDITING FACILITY AND ADDING LOCALIZED INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL, THE POST PROVIDED THE STATION WITH THE CLIPS, EACH FEATURING ONE MAJOR ASPECT OF THE LOS DISCUSSIONS. NIGHTLY AUDIENCE IN MANILA AND THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE ISLAND OF LUZON IS ESTIMATED TO BE AT LEAST A QUARTER OF A MILLION. ALTHOUGH THIS TYPE OF SERIALIZED NEWS-FEATURE HAS NOT BEEN SEEN FOR SEVERAL YEARS ON PHILIPPINE TELEVISION, WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO USE THE DEVICE FREQUENTLY FOR PRIME TIME PRESENTATION OF IMV AND LOCALLY- PRODUCED DOCUMENTARIES.
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